

well as neighboring Georgia counties. A three-faceted educational emphasis is on academic programs for transferability, technical programs for specialized career competencies and health sciences programs for specialized training in the health field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Southern Union a happy 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WILLIAMS AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank John Williams for his service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

John came to the Committee as merely the last step in a distinguished career in public service. He previously worked for various offices on Capitol Hill, including for former Representative Baron Hill of Indiana, the House Committee on Rules, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. He has also held positions at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the IMPAC 2000 redistricting project, and, most recently—before rejoining us on the Hill—at the Federal Communications Commission. John received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

John joined the Committee on the Judiciary as Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian in November 2019, as the House was in the midst of its first impeachment inquiry into then-President Trump. His knowledge of House procedure and parliamentary rules were critical as we navigated the first Presidential impeachment in two decades—and again a year later as we conducted the second impeachment of that same president.

John has played an integral role advising me, our subcommittee chairs, and staff over the course of more than 75 committee hearings and more than 100 bill votes in committee and on the House floor. John also worked especially closely with our subcommittees as we participated in several reconciliation processes this Congress.

John's knowledge and counsel have been invaluable as we have worked to deliver tangible results for the American people over the past two years. His guidance has helped us move dozens of bills through both chambers of Congress and to the President's desk. We will miss John's work ethic and counsel as he takes the next step in his career.

We thank John for his service to the Committee and wish him the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LULA MARIE EDWARDS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Lula Marie

Edwards, an entrepreneur, exemplary community leader, and pioneering nurse during the Civil Rights Movement who passed at age 92 on February 1, 2022.

Mrs. Edwards was born one of six children on September 6, 1929, in Orville, AL, to the late James and Mary Scott-Harris. Valuing education even as a child, Mrs. Edwards was the first person in her family to graduate from high school at the top of the 1948 Keith High School inaugural graduating class. She continued her education at Selma University, where she studied to become an educator. However, after caring for her ailing brother Robert, Mrs. Edwards gained the attention of the nuns at Good Samaritan Hospital, and they encouraged her to become a nurse. Upon completing her LPN training at Good Samaritan School of Nursing in 1953, she served as a pioneering African American nurse treating the Foot Soldiers who were bludgeoned during "Bloody Sunday" in 1965, as they peacefully demonstrated for the equal right to vote.

During her time at Good Samaritan Hospital, Mrs. Edwards served dutifully, working in every area of the hospital from 1953 until the hospital's closure. Continuing to serve her community as a healthcare professional, she went on to work at Vaughan Regional Hospital and Dr. Ernest Okeke Family Medicine before ultimately retiring from nursing in 1995 at 42. Upon her retirement, she was honored by Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Inc. for her extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession.

Spending much of her childhood in Siloam Baptist Church, Mrs. Edwards devoted her life to Christ at an early age. She was a member of the Queen of Peace Catholic Church before joining the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, where she faithfully served in various capacities including, the Mother of the church, a member of the Missionary Society, and an active Sunday school member. Mrs. Edwards was also an ardent fundraiser for the church and consistently encouraged the youth and supported all church activities.

Dedicating her life to helping others, Mrs. Edwards exuded a sense of community, continuing, to help people outside of the hospital setting by opening her home to provide healthcare to people who otherwise would not have had access to it earning her the title "neighborhood doctor." As an enterprising woman, she also served as a landlord opening homes on her property once again, to those in need providing affordable housing for her tenants and creating a safe haven for the entire community.

Mrs. Edwards was preceded in death by her parents James and Mary Harris, loving husband Amos Edwards, son James "Ebo" Ervin, sister Nellie B. Jackson, brothers Andrew Jackson (A.J.) Harris, James "Lil Buddy" Harris, Jr., and grandson Kenneth "Ken Bear" Edwards Sr. She is survived by her children, Brenda (Steven) Brazzell, Anthony Edwards, Amy (Roosevelt) Marzette, Stephanie Meniffee, Louis (Lisa) Edwards, Bonita (Calvin) Andrews, and Derrick (Adrein) Edwards, sixty-two grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, seven great-great grandchildren, brothers Robert Harris, Sr. and Lovie Lee Harris, faithful God daughter Nancy Clark Jackson, and a host of additional relatives, members of her church family, friends, and community children.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in rec-

ognizing the life and legacy of Lula Marie Edwards and her contributions to the Selma community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID E. RIVERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a committed educator and public servant, who lived by the Biblical teaching to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly." He also happened to be a very dear friend for more than 40 years, Dr. David E. Rivers transitioned from this life on February 4, 2022, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

Dr. Rivers was born on June 7, 1943, in Fayetteville, Georgia. He was the second of five children born to Joseph and Lorine Rivers. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in urban affairs, political science and public administration at Georgia State University. He went on to graduate from the National Urban Fellows Program in Public Administration at Yale University and the Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program at Furman University. He was also a charter member of Georgia State University's first Black Greek organization, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Incorporated, which was chartered in 1968.

Before beginning his professional career, Dr. Rivers, served three years in the U.S. Army. He became Atlanta's first African American Commissioner of Budget and Planning under Mayor Maynard Jackson. He held leadership positions on the Atlanta Regional Commission, at Georgia State University, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and headed the Public Health Department in the District of Columbia Government under Mayor Marion Barry.

All of these experiences were a precursor to his extraordinary career at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He joined MUSC's faculty in 1995, and served in many distinguished capacities, promoting partnerships between academic institutions, government agencies, elected officials, business industry, faith-based groups, and community activists to build healthier communities. At the time of his death, Dr. Rivers was the Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach Initiative (PICO) at MUSC, a program he founded.

Dr. Rivers served as Principal Investigator, administering over \$20 million in sponsored funding during his career, and was a collaborator in securing funding for over \$100 million in national, state, and local programs during his career. Under his leadership, the PICO Initiative conducted nationwide Community Leaders Institutes to address the impact of health disparities and environmental justice issues in low-income, ethnic minority communities and other underserved populations.

South Carolina Educational Television produced his award-winning Community Leaders Institute programs, which were televised to national audiences. In recognition of his work on climate change and its impact across the United States, Dr. Rivers received multiple

nominations and won a Bronze Telly Award and the highest viewership of a televised program produced by Educational Television.

Dr. Rivers led the planning and execution of the National Conference on Health Disparities for nearly two decades, which provided a national dialogue to share progress in building healthy communities from 2007 through 2021. He also organized and led the Environmental Justice Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Legislative Conference. The Braintrust recommended strategies to help policy makers address environmental issues by fostering a relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development.

In 2009, Dr. Rivers became the first African American to hold a citywide elected office in Charleston, SC. He served as a Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Charleston since 2009, where he also served as Vice Chairman and Chairman. He was re-elected unopposed in 2015 and 2021.

Dr. Rivers served as Chairman of the National Urban Fellows and the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation boards. He was President of the Jonathan Green Foundation, and he was Vice Chairman of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corporation. He was a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Water Works Association, and Water Environment Federation.

He also served on the Boards of the South Carolina Aquarium, My Brother's Keeper, and the 100 Black Men of Charleston, SC. He was also a member of the National Council of La Raza, California State University Center for Latino Community Health in Monterey Bay, California; Allen University Board of Trustees; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Council, Executive Committee; the Advisory Board of Charleston's First Reliance Bank, and the Trident Urban League. He also served as a Board Member of Trident Urban League, the Community Foundation, and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. David Rivers. His impact can be felt across this country in so many communities that are addressing environmental justice and health disparities, and his work will continue through the initiatives he developed and nurtured throughout his career. Dr. Rivers led a life of purpose driven by passion. May he rest in power.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF BARRY VIRTS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Sheriff Barry Virts, who retired December 31, 2021 after 44 years with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. A dedicated public servant, Sheriff Virts demonstrated a profound commitment to public safety throughout his career.

Sheriff Virts is a lifelong resident of the Town of Rose in Wayne County, New York and graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School. He earned an Associate's degree from Erie Community College and began his career in law enforcement in 1977 as a corrections officer for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Virts was quickly promoted to road patrol deputy a year later, sergeant in 1985, and criminal investigations lieutenant in 1988. In 1999, he began overseeing the Wayne County jail as Chief Deputy.

Following ten years with the jail division, in 2009 Sheriff Virts was elected Sheriff of Wayne County. At the outset of his term, Sheriff Virts placed a significant emphasis on improving support for victims and collaboration between various police departments. For his work, Sheriff Virts has received local honors and served on over thirteen community and advisory boards including the Wayne County Criminal Justice Council, Wayne County Jail Advisory, Victim Resource Center, Wayne County Diversity Task Force, Wayne County Pretrial Youth and Adult Diversion. He also served on the Council on Alcoholism & Other Addictions, Wayne County Fire Chief's Association, and the Wayne County Housing Consortium.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the career of Sheriff Barry Virts and his commitment to public safety. I wish Sheriff Virts the best in his retirement.

REMEMBERING CHESTER ALAN BARTOL

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Chester "Chet" Bartol of Fort Wayne who passed away last month.

Chet was a hard-working, intelligent man who served our country and his community with joy. He graduated Warsaw High School in 1945 and attended Purdue University, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. For nearly fifty years, he worked in orthopedics as a distributor and was the owner of Zimmer-Bartol Associates.

In addition to his academic and career pedigree, Chet was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the Electrical Warfare Division of the Signal Corps. Northeast Indiana, and our country, is grateful to him for his service.

He is remembered as having been particularly active, sociable and selfless. A lifelong fan of Purdue sports, Chet ran high school and college track, and into old age remained a golfer and avid cardplayer. He is also remembered as having been a loving husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, five children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In the wake of his passing, I wish Chet's family peace, comfort and joy in knowing he lived a long and happy life. Though he is no longer alive, his spirit lives on in the minds and souls of those whom he knew and loved most.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN BREHM

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of Scotts Bluff County Veteran's Service Officer John Brehm. For nearly 50 years John has devoted his life to honoring and meeting the needs of American veterans and their families. Prior to this John served for three years in the United States Army, stationed near the 38th parallel in South Korea as well as Fort Carson, CO. His recent retirement marks a legacy of faithful service to others who sacrificed for our nation.

Despite his reluctance to assume credit for himself, the significance of John's impact is widely recognized. His accomplishments include restoring annual commencement of the local Veterans Day parade, partnering with the American Legion to organize County Government Day visits for high school students, and spearheading the establishment of Avenue of Flags displays as well as Veterans Memorial Park which now bears his name in my own hometown of Gering.

John has showed personal concern for each veteran he served, knowing full well the importance of going the extra mile. In addition to facilitating disability claims, his efforts fundraising for Disabled American Veterans vans have meant a great deal to veterans in need of transportation to health facilities in our sprawling, rural region.

John Brehm's dedication and patriotism are rare. His expertise will be missed, but we are grateful for his ongoing engagement as a citizen. Countless Nebraskans have been blessed by his care, and generations to come are indebted to his example.